Reduction in subsidy on complex fertilizers

524. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government had sought a reduction in the ad-hoc subsidy on the decontrolled phoshatic, potassic an complex fertilizer to Rs. 550 crores this year from a level of Rs. 628 crores in 1993-94 ; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM) : (a) and (b) As against the available provision of Rs. 632.14 crores during 1993-94 under Concessional Scheme on sale of decontrolled phosphatic, potassic and complex fertilizers with concession to the farmers, actual funds released to States/Union Territories amounted to Rs. 517.34 crores only. Hence, as requirement of Rs. 550 crores, which would be sufficient to take care of the demand for 1994-95 has been projected.

Interlinking of agricultural universities and farm research institutions

525. SHRI GOVINDRAO ADIK: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that ICAR is developing a computer network to interlink the Agricultural Universities and Farm Research Institutions;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what are the likely benefits of this system ?

THE MINISTER OF THE STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) to (c) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research has entered into an agreement with the International Service for National Agricultural Research (ISNAR), an International Agricultural Research Centre based in the Hague, (The Netherlands), for preparing a detailed project report for linking all zonal research stations of the State Agricultural Universities with the Headquarters of the University and the University with ICAR Headquarter. Some of the ICAR Institutes are already linked to ICAR Headquarters through NICNET. A computer network linking zonal research stations, SAUs and ICAR Institutes with the Headquarters of the Council will provide on line exchange of information on agricultural research and technology and lead to quicker access to information required by research scientists.

लातूर में भूकम्प के झटके

526. **श्री सुशील कुमार संभाजीराव शिन्दे** : क्या कृषि मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि महाराष्ट्र के लातूर जिले में 24 जून को भूकम्प के झटके महसूस किए गये ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो इस भूकम्प की तीव्रता क्या थी ;

(ग) इस भूकम्प से हुए जानमाल के नुकसान का ब्यौरा क्या है ;

(घ) पिछले वर्ष का भूकम्प और इस वर्ष के भूकम्प को ध्यान में रखते हुए क्या सरकार इस क्षेत्र के भूगर्भ का कोई अध्ययन कर रही है ;

(ङ) यदि हां, तो इसका ब्यौरा क्या है ; और

(च) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं ?

कृषि मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री अरबिन्द नेताम) : (क) तथा (ख) 24 जून, 1994 को भारतीय मानक समय अनुसार प्रातः 3 बजकर 33 मिनट पर रिक्टर पैमाने पर 4.2 परिमाण का एक भूकम्प आया।